

Notice of Meeting

Heritage Advisory Group

Notice is hereby given that the next meeting of the Heritage Advisory Group will be held at Alexandrina Council, Large Meeting Room, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa Office on Thursday 4 June 2026 commencing at 5:30pm

A copy of the Heritage Advisory Group Meeting Minutes will be placed on www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au as soon as practicable following the meeting.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew MacDonald".

Andrew MacDonald
Chief Executive Officer

27 May 2026

Agenda for the Heritage Advisory Group

4 June 2026

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1. Opening of Meeting

Present

To be confirmed

Apologies / Leave of Absence

All apologies sent in prior to the meeting or Advisory Group members who are on a leave of absence

In attendance

To be confirmed

Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Alexandrina Council and its communities acknowledge the Ngarrindjeri, Peramangk and Kaurna people as the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of our Council District.

Declarations of Interest

If an Advisory Group Member has a conflict of interest (actual or perceived) between their role as an Advisory Group Member and their private interests in a matter which will be before the Advisory Group at this meeting, they are required to disclose the interest to the Advisory Group prior to the relevant matter being discussed or as soon as the conflict becomes apparent.

Confirmation of Minutes

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Heritage Advisory Group meeting held on 9 April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

The public agenda and minutes from the meeting can be located on Council's website: [Heritage Advisory Group Agenda and Minutes](#)

2. Reports Requiring Decision

2.1 Road Naming Request

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek advice from the Heritage Advisory Group about the addition of two (2) names to the pre-approved road names list for Strathalbyn.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Advisory Group recommend to the Executive Officer that:

- **Allen is confirmed on the pre-approved list,**
- **Wallis is added to the pre-approved list, and**
- **That these two names should be reserved for use within the development at 9 Edward Street, Strathalbyn.**

Background

Two (2) road names were proposed via email from Cr Craig Maidment on 22 January 2026, relating to the development at 9 Edward Street, Strathalbyn.

The Allen surname, in particular Job Allen, and the name of John Wallis is synonymous with a Wheelwright and Foundry Enterprise in Catherine Street, Strathalbyn. The site is located behind what is now a building occupied by Raine and Horne on Albyn Terrace. Job Allen commenced the business in the early 1880's and by 1883 formed a partnership with John Wallis who operated this business until 1907.

They had 7 forges employing 14 men and by 1892 were making Stump Jump Ploughs. For its time, this was a significant business in Strathalbyn. They also made buggies, coaches and carried out coach painting and trimming.



Location Plan



Behind Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn 1883. Note signage on the building to the right identifies it as the premises of Job Allen Blacksmith

Discussion

The 9 Edward Street property was recently purchased by developers from descendants of the Allen family.

Allen is already on the pre-approved road name list. It is proposed to add the name Wallis to the list and link both names to the development at 9 Edward Street, Strathalbyn.

2.2 Bridge Naming Request

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek advice from the Group about a request from a community member to name a bridge "Findlater Bridge" after their forebears and to consider its suitability for this specific bridge.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Advisory Group recommends to the Executive Officer, subject to further investigations, that the name "Findlater" is appropriate for the bridge located on Lake Road across the Bremer River.

Background

A community member has enquired about the naming of the bridge along Lake Road, where it crosses the Bremer River. Her mother-in-law (nee Findlater) recently celebrated her 90th birthday and is the last living descendant with direct ties to the local area and its history.



Location Plan

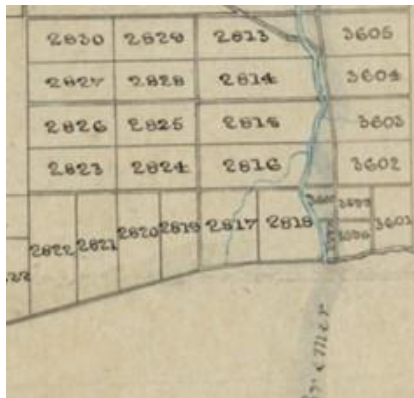
Originally, settling in Milang during the mid to late 1800s, the Findlater family owned many sections of land to the north and west of the bridge over the Bremer River. The following obituary for John James Findlater provides context.

John James Findlater (obituary)

Born at Milang on May 11. 1863. he was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Findlater, and lived all his life in the district. He was educated at the Milang public school. In early life he assisted his father in farming and contracting, and eventually took up farming and dairying on his own account at "Glenalvie."

As a young man he joined the Milang Congregational Church, and held the position of secretary of the church and Sunday-school for a number of years. He also served as a deacon of the church. He took an interest in sport, and was captain of the Milang Football Club for several years. He was also a keen supporter of coursing, and had held various officials positions on the Lake Plains and Alexandra Coursing Clubs. A large portion of the land coursed over by these clubs was his property. For 14 years Mr. Findlater was a member of the Bremer District Council, and at one time was chairman of the Lake Plains school board. In 1897 Mr. Findlater married Miss Ethel Pavy, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pavy of Milang. There are four daughters and one son of the marriage. They are Edna Findlater and Mrs. Henry Eckert (Belvidere). Misses Lorna and Gwen Findlater. and Mr. Allen Findlater. lieutenant-Colonel D. Findlater of Naracoorte, is a brother, and Mrs. A. H. Parnell, of Milang, is a sister.

From The Advertiser, Wednesday 9 April 1930



The Findlater family held land adjacent the Bremer River since 1928 - Sections 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2824, 2825, 2826, 2827



Street View, 2026



Findlater family photograph, undated

Discussion

Nearby is Findlater Road, and a consideration is whether this is confusing being 1.1km west of the unnamed bridge on Lakes Road over Bremer River.

There is reference to "Findlater's Bridge" on Trove (The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser, Friday 18 January 1907) referring to works within the Bremer Council area. This does not specify the exact location.

John James Findlater held many land titles, and farmed, within the area, with the family listed on titles for over 70+ years.

'Bagley Bridge' over the Angas River was highlighted by the community member as a precedent further down Lake Road (4.8km to west).

2.3 2026 Alexandrina Heritage Awards

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to facilitate discussion about the process behind the 2026 Alexandrina Heritage Awards and the event night to inform activities for 2027.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Advisory Group advise the Executive Officer of feedback on the 2026 Awards process and event, and potential improvements for 2027.

Background

Alexandrina Council has run a heritage awards program more or less every year since 2017. Each year the program evolves in light of budget, community expectation and feedback from the year prior.

Discussion

Matters raised informally that may guide discussion include:

- How to respond to the question "What are the implications of nomination?"
- How can we encourage earlier and quality nominations?
- Clarification of whether Council projects be nominated/awarded?
Example raised was the Strathalbyn Cemetery wall
- Nomination forms - not working as well as they could be, improvements to facilitate assessment process.
- Categories
 - Do we need under and over \$50K for Conservation Practice
 - Should Conservation Practice just be for buildings?
 - Heritage Tourism - should we break into for profit and not for profit
- Assessment process
 - Process is very clunky for staff and the Group. Questions are difficult to judge. Sometimes there is not enough information, particularly images. Suggest starting with the guidelines and work from there.

2.4 Strathalbyn Heritage Review

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek advice from the Group on matters to be considered in the Strathalbyn Heritage Review.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Advisory Group advise the Executive Officer of matters to be considered in the Strathalbyn Heritage Review.

Background

In December 2023 the then Heritage Advisory Committee resolved :

That as part of the review of the Strathalbyn Town Plan 2014-2024 Council explore the extension of the historic area overlay boundary to incorporate the significant buildings on western side of West Terrace.

The Strathalbyn Heritage Review is a commitment of the A2040 Strategic Delivery Plan 2025-2035 and is due for completion by 30 June 2026. The objectives of the Review are:

- Inform the Strathalbyn Town Plan
- Review effectiveness of current heritage overlays
- Identify any heritage overlay errors
- Consider need for future Code Amendment
- Quantify any future budget needs

Project Brief identifies the Heritage Advisory Group as a key stakeholder with whom consultation will be undertaken.

Discussion

Discussion will be facilitated by a PowerPoint presentation by Fiona McMahon, Senior Policy Planner.

2.5 Heritage Grants

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek volunteers from the Group to participate in the assessment of Heritage Grants.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Advisory Group advise the Executive Officer of volunteers to participate in the 2026 Heritage Grant assessment panel.

Background

The Alexandrina Council Grant Program is now open and key dates are:

- Monday 4 May - Applications open
- Monday 15 June - Applications close
- Monday 29 June to Friday 10 July - Online assessment period
- Monday 13 July to Friday 24 July - Assessment panel meetings
- Monday 17 August – Consideration by Council

Grant assessment panels for all categories are required to have a minimum of three members including:

- A Council Member representative from the relevant Council committee of advisory body – Councillor Craig Maidment appointed by Council
- The Chair or nominated delegate from the relevant Council committee or advisory body – Kylie Weymouth as Executive Officer/Chair of the group
- A staff representative with relevant subject matter expertise – Fiona McMahon, Senior Policy Planner.

The Terms of Reference for the Heritage Advisory Group do not make reference to the grant assessment process.

Discussion

Administration suggests that community input to the assessment process would be beneficial and invites members of the Group to consider volunteering. Matters to consider in volunteering are:

- 1 – 2 volunteers needed
- Ability to assess applications online between 13 July and 24 July 2026
- Availability to attend an assessment panel meeting between 13 July and 24 July
- Interest or expertise across the grant categories – tourism, conservation, adaptive reuse, gardens and fencing, research.

2.6 Tree Management Policy

Report Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform the Group about Council's *Tree Management Policy* and recent correspondence from the Port Elliot Port Elliot Town & Foreshore Improvement Association (PETFIA) which included a draft Register of Trees of Local Importance.

Recommendation

That the Heritage Advisory Group note the report and that:

- a) **Council Administration will continue to advocate for the spatial application of the *Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay* to townships within Alexandrina Council.**
- b) **the Group will be briefed on the Port Elliot and Environs Local Heritage Code Amendment once it is released on public consultation.**
- c) **a response to the correspondence from PETFIA similar to the content of this report has been sent.**

Background

Council's *Tree Management Policy* provides guidance for the planting, maintenance, conservation and removal of trees on Council land, including parks and gardens, urban biodiversity reserves, rural reserves, urban streets and rural roads.

To protect the cultural significance of certain trees, the *Tree Management Policy* proposes the development of a Register of Trees of Local Importance (the Register) to identify **trees on public land** that have value to the community.

Preparation of such a register is not currently resourced. If it were to proceed the Register would be a tool used by Administration to manage trees, and it would not have the power to require a statutory approval process.

The Port Elliot Town & Foreshore Improvement Association (PETFIA) wrote to Council with a draft list for the Register. Council Administration has reviewed the draft list to:

- distinguish trees that are on public land from those that are on private land
- determine whether any of the suggested trees are currently subject to heritage or other protections.

There are various statutory mechanisms available to protect trees under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (PDI Act) or the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*.

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act)

The PDI Act establishes the Planning and Design Code (the Code). The Code provides the Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay and Local Heritage Overlay as potential tree protection mechanisms.

The Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay applies to the majority of metropolitan Adelaide, however, does not apply to Alexandrina Council. The State Government has advised they will be reviewing the Overlay and considering its application across the Greater Adelaide Region. Council Administration will continue to advocate for the spatial application of this Overlay to townships within Alexandrina Council.

This Overlay contains the policies that are used in the assessment of any development applications that would result in the removal or pruning of a regulated or significant tree. Regulated and significant trees are defined as:

A regulated tree has:

- a single trunk with a circumference of 1 metre or more - when measured 1 metre above natural ground level;
- multiple trunks with a total circumference of 1 metre or more and an average circumference of 310 millimetres or more – when measured at 1 metre above natural ground level.

A significant tree has:

- a single trunk with a circumference of 2 metres or more measured at a point 1 metre above natural ground level;
- multiple trunks with a total circumference of 2 metres or more and an average circumference of 625 millimetres or more when measured 1 metre above natural ground level.

Local Heritage Places are listed in Part 11 of the Code and the policies that are used to assess development applications for those places are found in the Code via the Local Heritage Place Overlay. A Local Heritage Place listing essentially protects the place from demolition/removal (except under certain circumstances) and ensures that development is undertaken in a way that does not materially affect the listed elements of the Place. A Code Amendment process is required to be undertaken to identify a tree or stand of trees as a local heritage place. In order to be designated a Local Heritage Place the following criteria in section 67 of the PDI Act must be met:

- (a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; or
- (b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; or
- (c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents; or
- (d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area; or
- (e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; or
- (f) it is a notable landmark in the area; or
- (g) in the case of a tree (without limiting a preceding paragraph)—it is of special historical or social significance or importance within the local area.

Native Vegetation Act 1991

Native Vegetation Act 1991 applies to the whole of the State with the exception of some parts of metropolitan Adelaide and seeks to protect all vegetation that meets the native vegetation definition within the *Native Vegetation Act 1991*. Development applications that may result in the removal of native vegetation are required to be referred to the Native Vegetation Council via the Native Vegetation Overlay or the State Significant Native Vegetation Area Overlay (subject to the level of clearance proposed) of the Code.

Discussion

The analysis of the draft list provided by PETFIA indicates that the majority of the trees identified are on public land, with only 5 trees on private land.

The 5 trees on **private** land that do not fall within the definition of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* currently have no protections from removal. Some of them may be situated within the Historic Area Overlay (HAO), however the HAO does not restrict the removal of trees. A tree must be specifically identified as either a Local Heritage Place or a State Heritage Place for removal to trigger a statutory approval process.

The Proposal to Initiate the Port Elliot and Environs Local Heritage Code Amendment (the Proposal) has been endorsed by Council and lodged with the Minister for Planning. The

Proposal is confidential at this stage, however once approval from the Minister for Planning is given for it to proceed community consultation will commence and a briefing can be provided to the Group on trees that are included.

The trees in the draft list on **public** land may be included on the proposed *Register of Trees of Local Importance* should it be resourced. Council's Field Services Team are currently considering how data about trees located on public land will be collected and the long-term monitoring arrangements required. The trees identified by PETFIA will be considered as part of that review. In the interim, trees on public land cannot be removed unless approval from Council, as their owner, is obtained. In addition, any vegetation that satisfies the definition of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* cannot be removed without approval to do so.

3. Reports for Information

3.1 Back to Burra – Australia ICOMOS 50th Celebration 2026

On May 1-3 2026 the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Australia ICOMOS was acknowledged in Burra with a symposium. Fiona McMahon and Pippa Buckberry were able to attend this event and listen to presentations, participate in discussion, and develop industry contacts. We heard that the new South Australian Heritage Strategy is currently under consultation with various government Ministers. Other observations:

- In writing the Burra Charter 50 or so years ago the big debate was about the importance of fabric vs meaning – for example what weight do we give the physical substance of a place (i.e. the bricks and mortar) versus the stories of and about the place. The balance is always shifting, currently there is an emphasis on the stories, as it enables people to connect with places as they can see themselves or their families or communities reflected.
- The public narrative about heritage is heavily informed by the development industry who influence the voice of politicians and present heritage as an impediment and problem. This is very different to the community narrative which is positive but connected to stories and what they value – not the codes/controls/regulations.
- As heritage professionals we have an obligation to 'truth-telling'. For example, we can't start the story of Adelaide by talking about Wakefield and Light. The story needs to talk about dispossession/massacres and all the uncomfortable things that happened to enable Lights plan to be implemented.

3.2 2026 Meeting Schedule

The remaining meetings for 2026 are included for reference below:

Date	Location	Address
6 August	Strathalbyn	Community Centre, 1 Colman Terrace, Strathalbyn
1 October	Goolwa	Main Council Office, 11 Cadell Street, Goolwa

Notes:

- Group meetings are on a Thursday commencing at 5:30pm and concluding by 7.00pm.

- Due to Local Government elections, there is no meeting scheduled for December 2026

4. Verbal Updates from Group Members

5. Confidential Reports

Nil.

6. Meeting Closed

Next Meeting

5:30pm, Thursday 6 August 2026, Strathalbyn